



Montana Drought Advisory Committee

**USDA NASS Montana Field
Office**

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Statistician**

August 18, 2006

August 1 Production Forecast

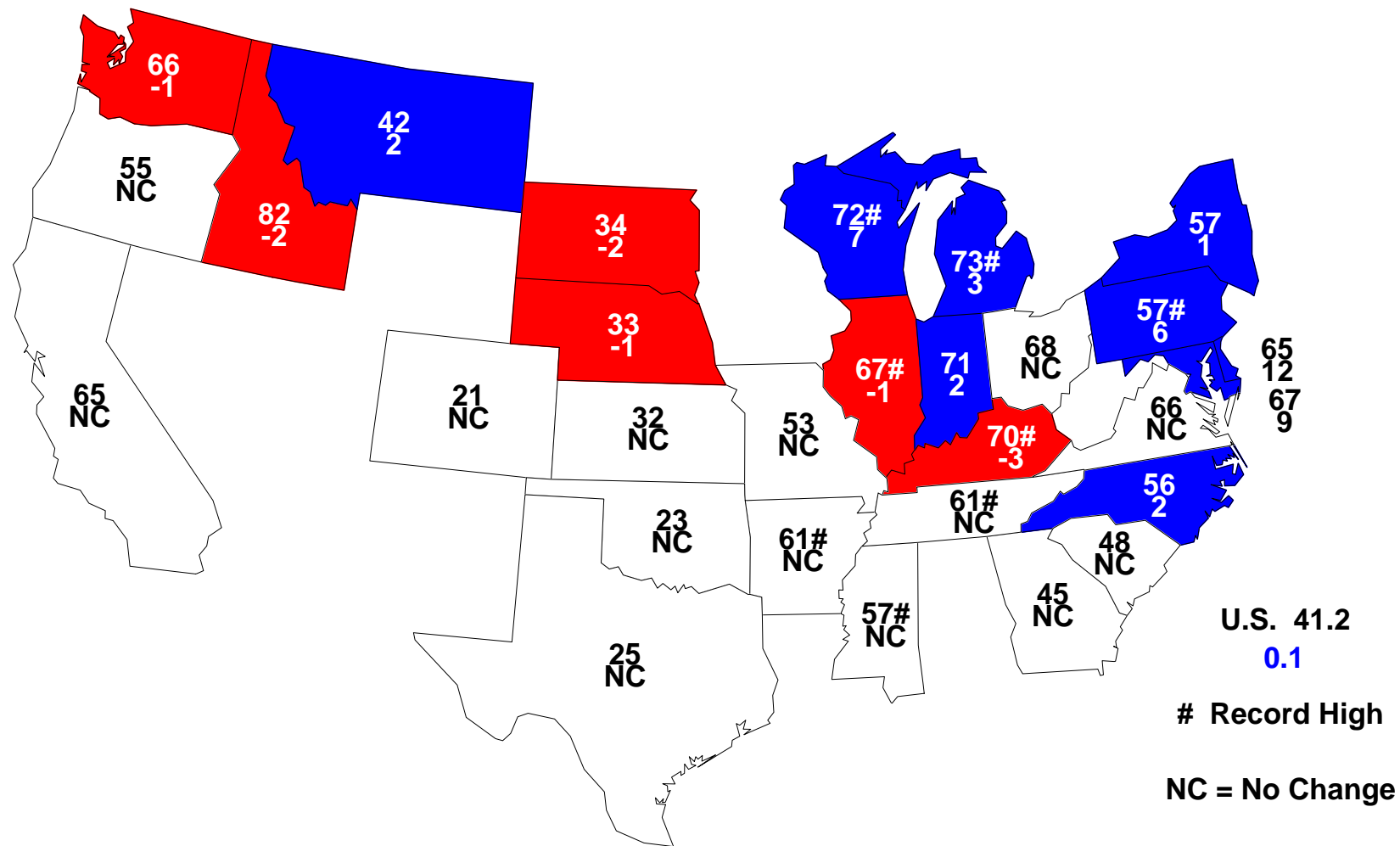


**Dry, hot, & windy
conditions in July ripened
spring seeded crops quickly**

**Wheat production is 5% lower
than July forecast and 17% lower
than last year**

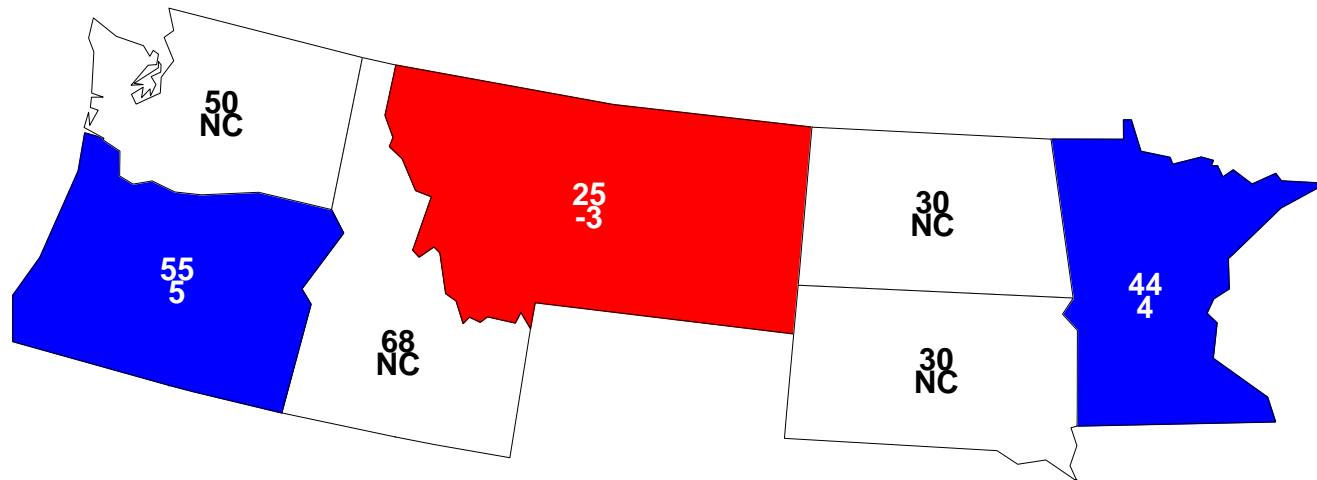
Winter Wheat Yields, August 1, 2006

Bushels and Change From Previous Month



Other Spring Wheat Yields, August 1, 2006

Bushels and Change From Previous Month

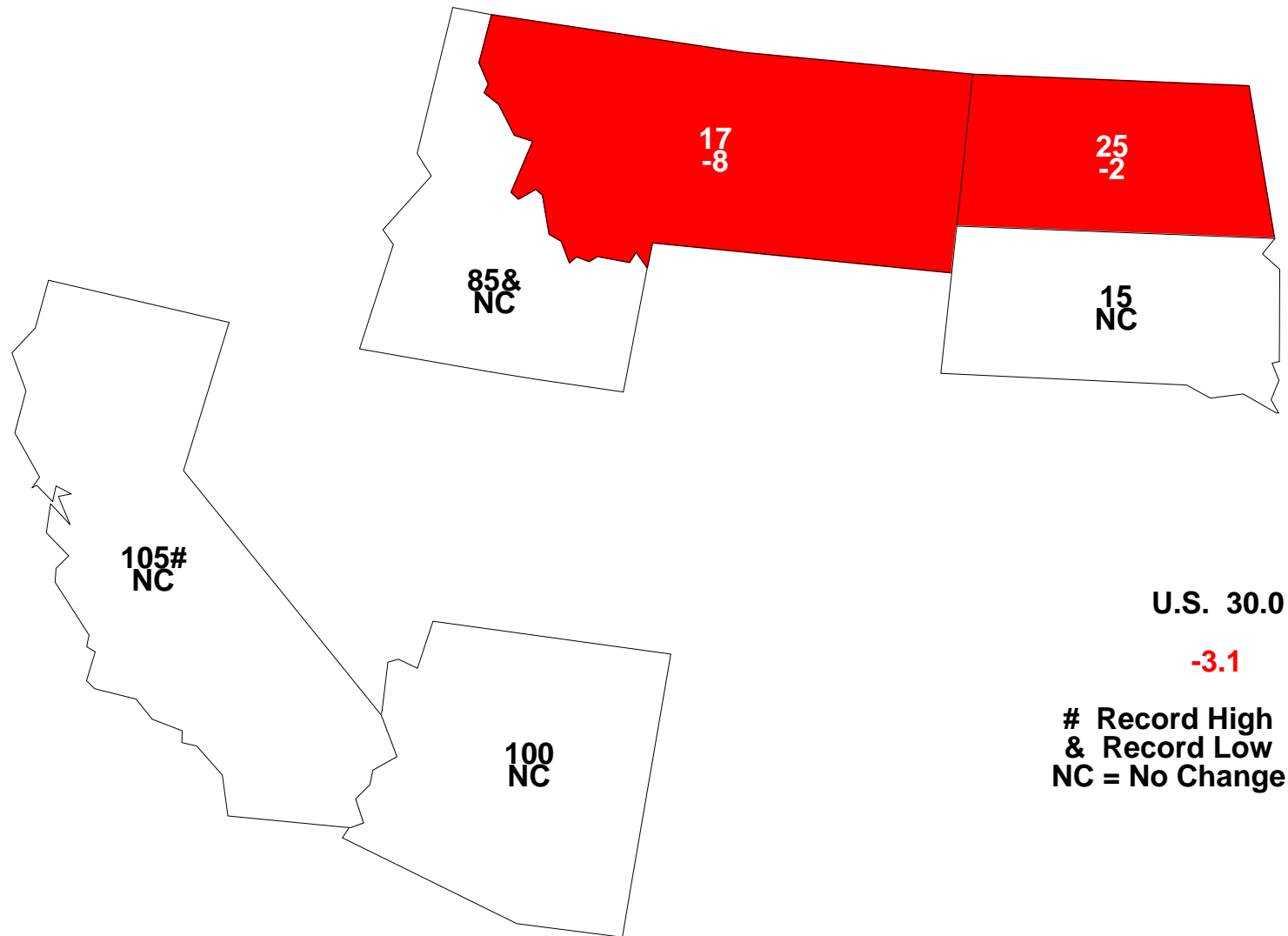


U.S. 32.7
-0.2

NC = No Change

Durum Wheat Yields, August 1, 2006

Bushels and Change From Previous Month



Montana's August 2006 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '06	% Chg from Prev Forecast	% Chg from Prev Season
Winter:				
Harvested	Mil Ac	1.95	NC	-7.1
Yield	Bu/Ac	42.0	+5.0	-6.7
Production	Mil Bu	81.9	+5.0	-13.3
Other Spring:				
Harvested	Mil Ac	2.85	NC	+11.8
Yield	Bu/Ac	25.0	-10.7	-21.9
Production	Mil Bu	71.3	-10.7	-12.7
Durum:				
Harvested	Mil Ac	.40	NC	-32.5
Yield	Bu/Ac	17.0	-32.0	-39.3
Production	Mil Bu	6.72	-32.0	-59.0
All Wheat:				
Production	Mil Bu	159.9	-4.7	-16.9

Montana's August 2006 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '06	% Chg from 2005
Barley			
Harvested	Mil Ac	.64	- 8.6
Yield	Bu/Ac	53.0	- 5.4
Production	Mil Bu	33.9	-13.5

Montana's August 2006 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '06	% Chg from 2005
All Hay			
Harvested	(000) Ac	2,750	- 8.3
Yield	Tons	1.86	- 4.6
Production	(000)Tons	5,115	-12.6
Alfalfa Hay			
Harvested	(000) Ac	1,100	- 37.1
Yield	Tons	1.50	- 31.8
Production	(000)Tons	1,650	- 57.1
Other Hay			
Harvested	(000) Ac	1,100	-12.0
Yield	Tons	1.50	- 6.3
Production	(000)Tons	2,000	- 17.5

Winter Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Harvested acreage

- 1,950,000 acres to be harvested for grain
- 150,000 less harvested acres than last year

Production

- 81.9 million bu
- 12.6 million bu less than last year
- Up 3.9 million bu from July forecast

Winter Wheat August Production Forecast



Yield

- 2006 yield forecast 42 bu per acre
 - 2 bu higher than July 1, 2006 forecast
- 2005 yield 45 bu per acre
 - 2006 forecast 3 bu lower than last year

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Winter Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



On August 1 indications point to a good winter wheat crop

Final winter wheat estimates

Small grains summary released September 29

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Spring Planted Crops

**Spring planted crops
progress ahead of last
year**

**July's hot, dry conditions
ripened crops quickly**



Spring Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Planted acreage

- 2.9 million acres planted
- 300,000 acres more than last year

Acres for harvest

- 2.9 million acres for harvest
- Up 300,000 acres from last year

Spring Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Production

- Forecast at 71.3 million bu
- Down 8.5 million bu from July 1 forecast
- Down 13% from last year

Yield

- 25 bu per ac, down 3 bu from July 1
- 7 bu less than last year

Durum Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Production

- 6.7 million bu, down 32% from July 1
- Down 59% from last year

Yield

- 17 bu per ac, down 8 bu from July 1
- 11 bu less than last year

Barley August 1 Production Forecast



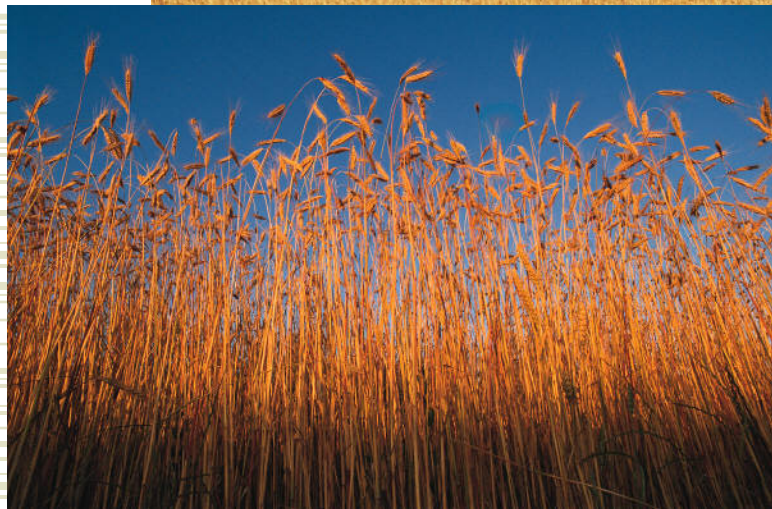
Production

- 33.9 million bu, down 1.3 million bu from July 1 forecast
- Compared with 39.2 million bu last year

Yield

- 53.0 bu per ac, down 2 bu from July 1 forecast
- 3 bu less per acre than last year

Crop Weather for the Week Ending August 13, 2006

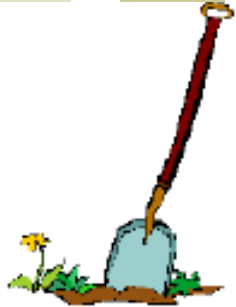




Topsoil Moisture Declined from Last Month, Last Year, & 5-Year Average

August 13, 2006	This week	Last Month	Last year	5-yr Ave
Very short - short	91%	86%	67%	72%
Adequate	9%	14%	31%	26%
Surplus	0%	0%	2%	2%

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Subsoil Moisture Declined from Last Month, Last Year, & 5-Year Average

August 13, 2006	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Ave
Very short - short	86%	77%	71%	79%
Adequate	14%	23%	28%	21%
Surplus	0%	0%	1%	0%

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Crop Weather Report

Week Ending August 13, 2006

- ◆ Winter wheat harvest nearing completion, ahead of last year and 5-year average
- ◆ Harvest of spring seeded grains ahead of last year and five-year average, with almost all of the crop ready for harvest



Crop Weather Report

Week Ending August 13, 2006

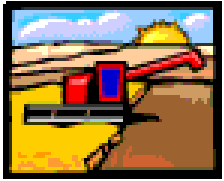
- ◆ Crop progress ahead of last year, due to July's hot, dry conditions
- ◆ Second cutting of hay well underway

Winter Wheat Progress Ahead Last Year & 5-Year Average



August 13, 2006	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Winter Wheat Harvested	97%	88%	73%

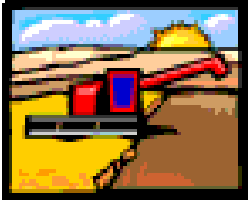
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Spring Wheat Crop Condition Worse than Last Year & 5-Yr Average

August 13, 2006	Very poor- Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	43%	39%	17%	1%
Last month	23%	43%	30%	4%
Last year	7%	16%	58%	19%
5-yr avg	27%	29%	34%	10%

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Spring Wheat Progress Ahead Last Year & 5-Yr Avg

August 13, 2006	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Spring wheat Harvested	62%	30%	22%

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Barley Harvest Ahead of Last Year & 5-Year Average



August 13, 2006	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Barley			
Turning	86%	95%	92%
Harvested	51%	34%	27%

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Barley Crop Condition Worse than Last Year, but Nearly Same as 5-Yr Average

	Very poor-Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
August 13, 2006				
This week	25%	30%	35%	10%
Last month	13%	40%	36%	11%
Last year	9%	28%	46%	17%
5-yr avg	27%	32%	31%	10%

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Hay Harvest Well Ahead of Last Year & 5-Yr Average

August 13, 2006	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Alfalfa hay Second cutting	71%	39%	45%
Other hay Second cutting	65%	29%	31%

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Livestock Grazing



- ◆ Range and pasture conditions behind last year and 5-year average
- ◆ Dry weather starting to affect quality of forage
- ◆ Ranchers are hauling water to livestock



Range & Pasture Conditions Worse than Last Year & 5-Year Avg.

August 13, 2006	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr avg
Very poor-poor	48%	23%	16%	43%
Fair	31%	41%	38%	32%
Good	16%	30%	38%	21%
Excellent	5%	6%	8%	4%

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To Sum It Up

- ◆ Winter Wheat yields are better than average
 - High winter wheat test weight; reports of 67 lbs per bushel
- ◆ Spring wheat hurt by hot, dry, windy weather
 - Low test weight; reports as low as 50 lbs per bushel
 - Farmers are being docked for poor quality spring wheat and some low test weight wheat is being rejected by elevators

To Sum It Up

- ◆ Ranchers are hauling water to livestock
- ◆ Range conditions continue to decline
- ◆ Need more precipitation to improve topsoil and subsoil moisture